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The President's Daily Brief

8 September 1970

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 50X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 September 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 1*.

The Thieu government's crackdown on disabled veterans activists seems to have paid off, at least for now. *(Page 2)*

The radical fedayeen appear to have upstaged the moderate Fatah as a result of the hijackings. *(Page 3)*

On the eve of his visit here, Japan's defense chief has discussed his country's nuclear policy. *(Page 4)*

Honduras

(Page 5)

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Soviet

(Page 6)

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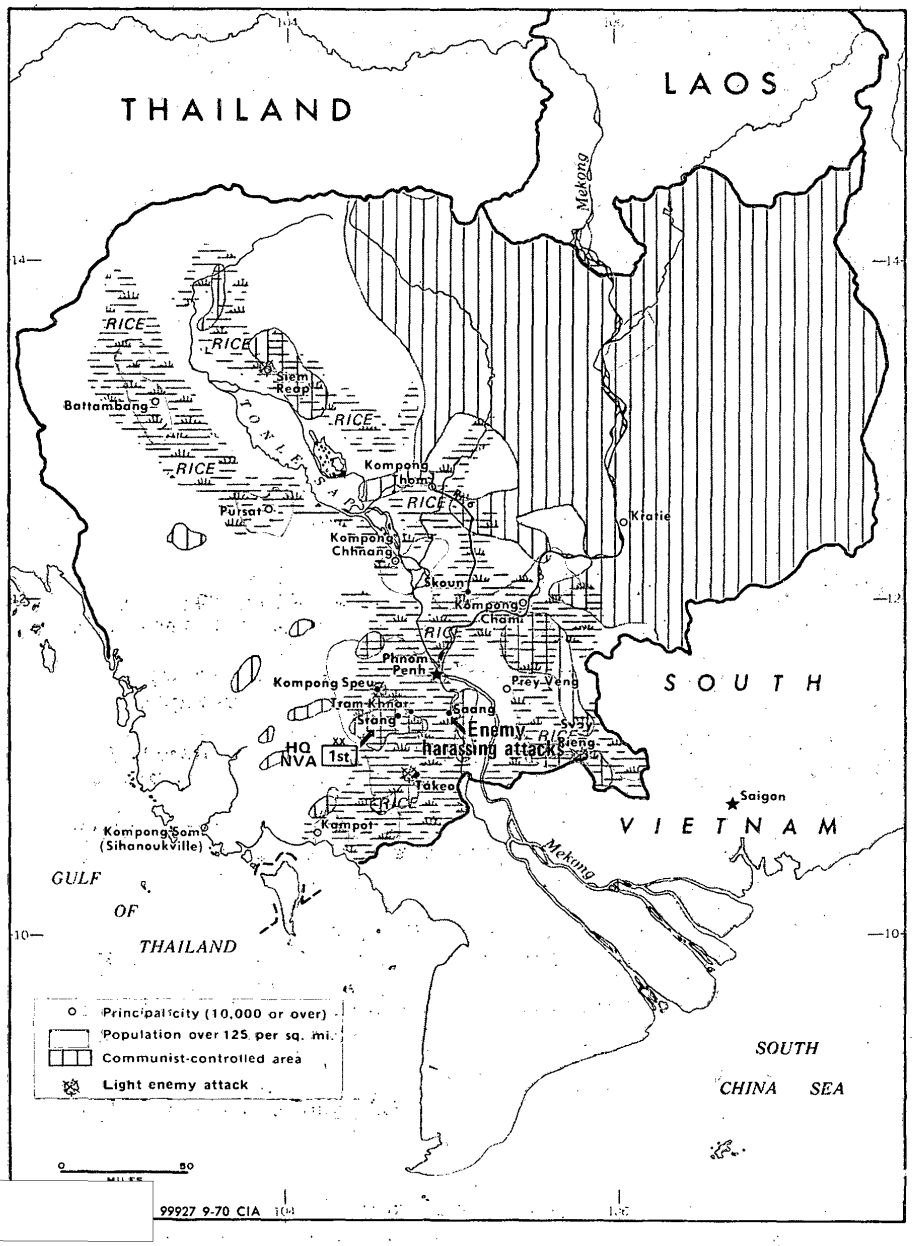
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Communist troops maintained pressure on the town of Saang over the weekend, attacking a nearby village and burning several bridges in the area. The Cambodian Army continues to report large numbers of enemy troops near Saang, and further to the west in the vicinity of Tram Khnar and Srang. According to communications intelligence, the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 1st Division was located five miles southwest of Srang on 4 September. Light enemy attacks occurred during the weekend on government positions near Siem Reap, Svay Rieng, Takeo and Kompong Speu but there were few casualties. 50X1

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SOUTH VIETNAM

No new street fighting was reported in Saigon this weekend following government warnings on Friday that its patience with disabled veterans activists had run out and that police had been ordered to enforce the law and preserve order by all available means. Squads of police, backed by army regulars, did not encounter serious resistance Saturday when they began tearing down squatters' shacks that veterans have been erecting in Saigon and its environs.

The government's crackdown on disabled veterans seems to have paid off, at least for now. Trouble may be in store, however, from a new group of about 300 disabled paramilitary veterans who are converging on Saigon to press demands that they be made eligible for veterans' benefits. Present veterans' benefits cover only regular army personnel, although the prime minister is empowered to extend eligibility and he has the matter under consideration.

The paramilitary veterans group has threatened to take to the streets and demonstrate against the government as well as the US Embassy. Most of these veterans worked closely with US civilian and military personnel while serving in paramilitary units.

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JORDAN

New shooting incidents over the weekend, in both Amman and the countryside, threatened the most recent attempts to ease tension between the government and fedayeen. Meanwhile, the moderate Fatah group, which has been more willing to cooperate with the Jordanian Government in restoring order, appears to have been upstaged by the radical fedayeen as a result of the hijackings. Fatah--which usually disapproves of such tactics--has found it expedient to congratulate the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on its hijacking successes.

> *The US Embassy believes the PFLP may again be in a position to set the pace for the fedayeen, at least temporarily, much as it did in the period after the seizure of the Al-Urdon hotel last June. This would further diminish hopes of an early restoration of order in Amman.*

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JAPAN

On the eve of his visit this week to the US, Defense Chief Nakasone has cautioned against Japan's development of nuclear weapons. He argued that such a course would spark a nuclear arms race with Communist China and cause criticism of Japanese militarism from other Asians. Nakasone implied that it would be easier for Japan to stick to a non-nuclear policy if the US and the USSR established a mechanism for international control of nuclear weapons.

Nakasone's comments--made in a talk to his party faction--were obviously leaked to the press in order to reassure the US on his views of Japan's nuclear intentions. Since becoming defense chief, Nakasone has taken a cautious line on nuclear policy [redacted] but in the past he has often advocated that Japan adopt a more independent, possibly nuclear, defense posture.

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HONDURAS

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USSR

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